

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, claims 21-26 were pending. By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 21-23. Accordingly, claims 21-26 are currently pending.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy of a telephone interview with the undersigned on February 18, 2005. During the interview, the claim language was discussed. The discussion below contains a summary of the interview.

Claims 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph allegedly for being indefinite for various reasons. First, according to the examiner, claims 21 and 23 are vague for reciting the phrase "...presence of the reaction."

In the telephone interview, the examiner suggested that applicants amend step d) *et seq.* of claim 21 as follows:

d) detecting any binding between ~~reaction of the~~
immunocomplexes ~~described~~ formed in step c) with the
immobilized antigen,
wherein binding of the ~~presence of the reaction~~
immunocomplexes with the immobilized antigen in the reactive
zone indicates the presence of IgA or IgG anti-transglutaminase
antibodies in the sample.

Applicants have amended claim 21 in accordance with the examiner's recommendation.

With regards to the indefiniteness rejection of claim 23, applicants proposed to amend claim 23 by replacing the phrase "detecting reaction of" with the phrase "detecting binding of," and to replace the phrase "wherein presence of the reaction of the" with the phrase "wherein binding of the." The examiner indicated that these amendments were acceptable.

The examiner further contends that claim 22 is confusing with respect to the recitation of "control reagent which reacts with the conjugated antigen." Applicants proposed to amend claim 22 by replacing the phrase with "control reagent which binds with the conjugated antigen."

The examiner suggested that applicants replace the word "which" with the word "that." Applicants have amended claim 22 in accordance with the examiner's suggestion.

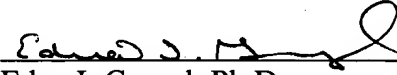
Applicants wish to thank the examiner for her helpful suggestions.

The examiner indicated that the amendments discussed above should overcome the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In view of the above amendments, applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

During the interview, applicants noted that the phrase "the human" recited in step b) of claim 21 should be replaced with "a human." The examiner indicated that this change was acceptable.

For the above reasons, allowance of the pending claims is earnestly requested. If the examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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